

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

Intro Song: Emmanuel from Steve Angrisano

Prayer:

Father of our **Lord Jesus** Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in **hope** of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and **hope** which his presence **will** bestow, for he is **Lord** for ever and ever. Amen.

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

So Saith John the Baptizer!

- Are you ready?
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- Be sure to stop by the sight for the Homework & show notes... I draw a lot on the 3 Amegois of Catholic Scripture Scholarship... Pitre, Barber, and Bergsma, with some Fr. Most thrown in for Good measure!
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- Have you prepared for the coming of the King? For his kingdom is at hand!

- Our Lady & St. Joseph lived in a VERY unique time... the 4th age!
 - There was an excitement in the air of the people of God!
 - Lots of folks claiming to be the Messiah...
 - Many of the were simply false prophets!
 - Even Josephus (1st cent. historian/rabbi/Jewish general/Roman captive) discusses the Messianic Fervor of the time!
- But what more than all else incited them to the war was an ambiguous oracle, likewise found in their sacred scriptures, to the effect that at that time one from their country would become ruler of the world. This they understood to mean someone of their own race, and many of their wise men went astray in their interpretation of it . . . For all that, it is impossible for men to escape their fate, even though they foresee it. Some of these portents, then, the Jews interpreted to please themselves, others they treated with contempt, until the ruin of their country and their own destruction convicted them of their folly. (Josephus, *War*, 6.312-315)

Note: the Link to the Prophet Daniel!

- 3 things come out of the Danielic prophecies

- The FULLNESS OF TIME
- The Kingdom of God
- The Son of Man!

Galatians 4:

1. [4] But when the *time had fully come*, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,
2. [5] to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
3. [6] And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"
4. [7] So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

Our Lord spoke often of the "Kingdom of God"... and the "Son of Man"!

Mark 10:

1. [33] saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the **Son of man** will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles;
2. [34] and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise."

In fact... It was the claim to be "THE SON OF MAN" that earned our Lord the death penalty!

Mark 14:

1. [61] But he was silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"
2. [62] And Jesus said, "I am; and you will see the **Son of man** seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."
 - What direction is he referring to? Coming or going?

Even St. Stephen witness to this vision of the Son of Man before his own death!

Acts 7:

1. [55] But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;
2. [56] and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the **Son of man** standing at the right hand of God."

So who is the Son of Man? What is the coming Kingdom?

- For that we turn to this ancient Prophet Daniel
- This is what our Lady and St. Joseph KNEW of the coming Messiah... the Child that was growing in the womb of Mary!

Daniel 2:

Daniel 2:

1. [36] "This was the dream; now we will tell the king its interpretation.
2. [37] You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory,
3. [38] and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the sons of men, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the air, making you rule over them all -- you are the head of gold.
4. [39] After you shall arise another kingdom inferior to you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.
5. [40] And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things; and like iron which crushes, it shall break and crush all these.
6. [41] And as you saw the feet and toes partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom; but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the miry clay.
7. [42] And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle.

8. [43] As you saw the iron mixed with miry clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay.
9. [44] *And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand for ever;*
10. [45] just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be hereafter. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure."
11. [46] Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and did homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him.

- **Notice the similarities to Joseph, son of Jacob**
 - *Both were captives*
 - *Both received visions from God in dreams*
 - *Both could interpret those dreams*
 - *Both stood before the King of Kings*
 - *Both were elevated to high posts within the kingdom*
 - *Both helped to save their people*

- **Notice the similarities in King Nebuchadnezzar to Adam & Christ, the last Adam**
 - *Both were King of Kings... ruler of all creation*
 - *Both were Lords of the creatures!*
- **The dream was of a large Idol - a statue or image that is *WORSHIPED* as if it were a god.**
 - *There are 4 metals*
 - *Head is Gold*
 - *Shoulders & arms are Silver*
 - *Loins are Bronze*
 - *The Legs are Iron*
 - *The Feet is mixed with Iron and clay*
 - **Notice the pattern from the top & pure gold to the bottom of clay & iron mixed...**
 - *Reminds me of 1 Corinthians 3 - from the stubble of the fire on the Alter to the Pure Gold of the Holy of Holies.*
 - *This is almost opposite... from the Pure Gold of the "King of Kings" to the mixed and brittle iron and clay of the Roman empire!*
 - *The Kingdom of God*
 - *the stone starts small & grows to a large*

mountain... takes over all the world!

- *Kind of like the Mustard seed... small to LARGE!*
- *The stone is NOT cut by HUMAN Hands!*
 - *Solomon build the Temple by cutting all the stones outside the city... & you could NOT hear tools being used... to simulate this! But... he also acknowledged that it was STILL just a house built by Human Hands in 1 Kings 8*
 - *This is ALSO a foreshadowing to the Virgin Birth of our Lord! In **Luke 1:34-35***
 - - [34] And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" [35] And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

So the Fullness of Time....

- Shows the Kingdom of God coming in the 4th age...
 - After the Babylonians
 - After the Meeds & the Persians
 - After the Greeks

- And during the time of the Romans!
 - This Kingdom is very strong
 - But... has mixed with many, many cultures like the clay & iron.
- The Kingdom will come and the stone will grow into a great mountain filling all the world...
 - NOT just Jerusalem

What of the Son of Man?

Daniel 7:

1. [2] Daniel said, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.
2. [3] And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.
3. [4] The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand upon two feet like a man; and the mind of a man was given to it.
4. [5] And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side; it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.'
5. [6] After this I looked, and lo, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back; and the beast had

four heads; and dominion was given to it.

6. [7] After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrible and dreadful and exceedingly strong; and it had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.
7. [8] I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots; and behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

- ***This is the vision of Daniel 7 & the 4 beats***
 - *The first is the King of Bablon*
 - *The second if the King of Medo-Persian Empire*
 - *The third is Alexander the Great!*
 - *The Forth is the Roman Empire*
 - *The 10 horns are a reference to the 10 Emperors from Ceaser to Titus who would destroy the Temple in 70 AD.*
- *But look at the Son of Man in Verse 13 and 14*
 - *Notice...*
 - *The Son of Man RIDES on the clouds*

- *This is a Devine freight... only the "gods" can ride on clouds.... like Zeus & thor!*
- *The direction the "Son of Man" is traveling?*
 - *Up NOT down... this is not a vision of the 2nd coming... this is aviation of the Ascension to heaven where the Son of Man sits at the right hand of the Father and posses HIS Kingdom!*
 - *But take note of who will RECEIVE the Kingdom from the Divine figure... "the Son of Man" ?*
 - [18] But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, for ever and ever.'

Daniel 7:

1. [13] I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven
2. there came one like a son of man,
3. and he came to the Ancient of Days
4. and was presented before him.
- 5.
6. [14] And to him was given dominion
7. and glory and kingdom,
8. that all peoples, nations, and languages

9. should serve him;
10. his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
11. which shall not pass away,
12. and his kingdom one
13. that shall not be destroyed.

Summery!

- Make Straight the paths this advent season by preparing for the coming Kingdom... the Son of Man will be cut from a rock with NO HUMAN hands
- This King will truly be the King of Kings & the Lord of Lords!
- Will he be the Lord of your Life?
- He is the Son of Man... the very Son of God... God himself.... that is coming, will you receive the Kingdom or will you forsake it?